

REMARKS

Claim 33 now specifies that the at least one optical signal is introduced into the optical fiber cable at the first point after a break in the optical fiber cable is suspected. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 1, lines 9-11 of the PCT publication.

Pitchforth fails to disclose a solution as defined by the currently amended claim 33. In Pitchforth's disclosure when a break is suspected, the system is placed in the test mode. Once in the test mode the traffic on the optical channel is disabled, and the OTDR signal is transmitted. This means that after the break is suspected, no signal is sent from the optical component 102.

In the present invention, after the break is suspected, a signal is intentionally sent from the first point of the optical fiber cable in order to find out if the suspected break is in the span of the network between the first point and the OTDR. This is not disclosed by Pitchforth.

In paragraph 0034 Pitchforth mentions that the disruption related to fault location would affect only this section of the system that is affected by the cut in the fiber. This is, however, only an advantageous effect Pitchforth wants to achieve, but then he fails to substantiate a solution that shows how this could be done. There is nothing in the disclosure by Pitchforth that shows sending an optical signal after the break is suspected. Moreover, Pitchforth teaches away from that by specifying that a loss of communication results in placing the system in a test mode where traffic is disabled. Therefore a person skilled in the art would not be motivated by Pitchforth to modify it by introducing a signal after the break is suspected.

In consequence, applicant believes that the invention as defined in the amended claim 33 is novel and non-obvious over Pitchforth.

Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to June 5, 2008. **A check in the amount of \$120.00**, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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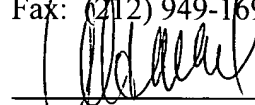
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